

**Bob Stauffer**

## Speed

The other night while watching the L.A. Kings play the Edmonton Oilers, I came to the realization that what I was watching was two teams going in totally different directions.

The Kings have shelled out big bucks to obtain Wayne Gretzky, Larry Robinson, John Tonelli, Keith Crowder, Barry Beck, and Kelly Hrucey. I realize that not all of these players were free-agent signings, but trust me—for each player mentioned above, money was involved.

The Kings have built for today, their owner Bruce McNall has unleashed the purse strings along the same lines of a George Steinbrenner. But, it is all going to backfire on McNall. 'Why?', you may ask. Because the Kings have no team speed. Yes they have character, any team with a Wayne Gretzky and a John Tonelli has character. But this will not be enough to get them out of the Smythe Division. Not this year, not years after.

In making the deals the Kings have made, they have mortgaged their future. Perhaps it was needed to make hockey viable in Los Angeles.

The Oilers, on the other hand, have gone from being a slow, old hockey club to a fast, deep team of the future. They have done so because of the Coffey, Gretzky, and Carson trades. There is no substitute for speed, and when the Oilers dealt Carson to Detroit, they greatly improved their team speed.

The Oilers have hope for the future because they did not make the same mistake that the New York Islanders made in the mid-1980's. The Oilers did not wait too long to make the necessary moves, thus they have not sunk to the level that the Islanders have.

The names of the future are Martin Gelinas, Joe Murphy, Jeff Sharples, Craig Simpson, and Bill Ranford. These are the players that will carry on the Oiler tradition.

As an Oiler fan it hurt when Gretzky was traded. But when the Oilers dealt Gretzky to L.A. they insured that they would remain a competitive hockey team. Peter Pocklington and Glen Sather took a lot of flack for the deal, but already the benefits are starting to show through. This April the two teams will meet in the Smythe Division semi-final, and this year it is the Oilers who will prevail and the series will not last seven games. A lot of fans might owe a bit of an apology to Sather and Pocklington because Oiler hockey, a game of speed, creativity, and transition, is back.

The Oilers might not win the Stanley Cup this year, but they are on the verge of asserting themselves as a team of the nineties, an honor that they have already won for the eighties.

Bob Stauffer is Sports Director for FM-88 radio.

## Bears head south for the winter

by Ajay Bhardwaj  
Finally every hockey fan will get to see the comparison between CIAU hockey and United States college hockey. The Golden Bears will travel to the University of Minnesota-Duluth and then to a tournament in Los Angeles.

In Minnesota, the Bears will play two games against a Duluth team which is in the upper echelon of U.S. college hockey. The Bears leave on December 15 and play on that night and again on December 16.

The Bears will be without veterans Grant Couture, Gord Thibodeau, Rob Glasgow, and Al Tarasuk, not to mention Garth Premak and Jason Rankin, during the Minnesota leg of their journey. All of them will be writing exams.

"It will give us a good indication of the depth of our club," Glasgow said. "I'd like to see how they play."

After the two-game stint, the Bears will hit warm and sunny Los



Angeles, where they will play the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds. The winner will take on the winner of a game between the University of Denver and the University of Michigan. "It will be interesting to see the comparison between U.S. and Canadian hockey

programs," Premak said. "I'd like to see the comparison." The Bears will also take in a game between the Winnipeg Jets and the Los Angeles Kings at the Great Western Forum.

"It'll be a good break," Glasgow said. "It'll be nice to get away. I've never been anywhere warm when it's cold here. School was intense, this is our first break since we started (in September). It gives the guys a chance to rejuvenate and to renew their enthusiasm. It's nice to play games that aren't too intense."

Make no mistake about it, though, the Bears aren't going to L.A. just to have fun. "We're going down to win," Glasgow said.

Finally, the Bears will travel to Calgary for the Dinosaurs' annual tournament. They'll be joined by

the Dinos (of course), the University of Saskatchewan Huskies, and Wilfrid Laurier, three of the top six teams in Canada. The tourney goes from December 28 to December 30.

"We'll get seven good, quality games," head coach Bill Moores said. "We'll get everybody in two out of three games (in Calgary). It's good for conditioning, too."

"We have a close bunch of guys here," Premak said. "It's beneficial that we get practice time and we don't lose our conditioning."

And in the Christmas spirit, Moores likes the idea of togetherness. "It builds cohesiveness. If you're not with your family, you're with people who are special to you."

## Player Profile

**Celeste Bazinet**  
**Position: Forward**  
**Height: 5'10"**  
**Year of eligibility: 5**  
by Mitch Panciuk

U of A basketball fans around campus have no doubt noticed the woman playing great hands-up defence in the "uncover excitement" Panda promotional poster. When fans go to a game they can see that Celeste Bazinet is a true competitor, just as the poster suggests.

The middle child in her family, Bazinet was born and raised in Carstairs, Alberta and has always had athletics in her life. Having athletics play a large role in her life, Bazinet feels that this has helped her to develop a sense of committ-

ment by motivating herself to excel at every sport she has played. By "playing sports every day of your life since grade seven," Bazinet feels that this proves that you enjoy it. "Playing University basketball", and fastball while she was at Mayville State University in North Dakota, "is a lot harder, and you have to be committed to it. In a way it can measure how good you are, and it's a challenge. You try out to see if you can make the team, and then once you make it, you want to see if you can get into the starting line-up. From there, there's always another challenge," and Bazinet is the type of person who will always push herself to get better.

Bazinet is in her second year with the Pandas after coming to the team with a wealth of experience from previously playing at three different institutions—The University of Victoria, Red Deer College and Mayville, and has thus entered her fifth year of eligibility. With the Pandas only having two fifth year players, Bazinet has been expected to assume a lot of leadership, and she has done so in a lead-by-example manner.

Tracy Henger, a first-year transfer student, summed up Bazinet as the "toughest god-damned player that I've ever seen in my life. She just doesn't take any crap, and I can remember when we played Calgary and she got the crap beat out of her in the post and she kept going, kept pounding, and kept at it." Henger feels that the fact that Bazinet never gives up, makes you work a little bit harder. "You think that if Celeste can do it, then I can too."

Tracey Cook, one of the team co-captains, likes Celeste off the court, but more importantly, she respects her on the court. "She's



Jeff Cowley

always the one that says get going guys—hustle, she takes charge and is a leader," but what Cook enjoys the most in terms of her relationship with Bazinet, is the friendship that they've built. "I consider her my friend, I can talk to her about anything. I respect her a lot."

Bazinet is a tough competitor on the court, and she pushes herself to do better. "I've asked coach Hilko to tell me what I'm doing wrong so that I can correct it," Bazinet said, but she is upset that she suffered an ankle injury the day before training-camp opened. Bazinet has rushed back from that and finds it frustrating "because it takes time to recover," time that Bazinet just doesn't have at this stage. She also puts pressure on herself because "I'm a fifth year player", and "I'm expected to do certain things."

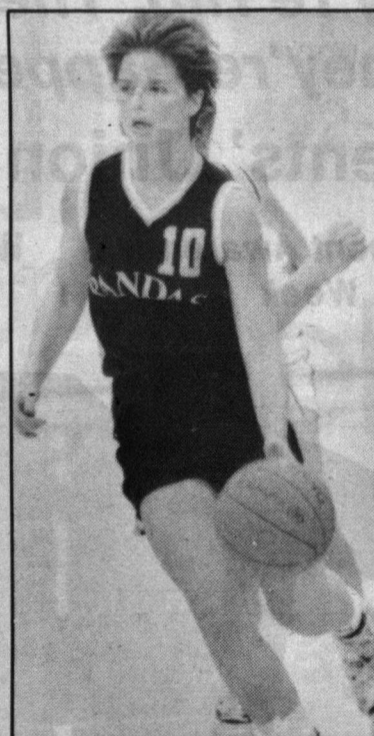
Ironically, Bazinet tells the story surrounding her favorite colors. "I used to say blue and red," and when asked about the Panda green and gold, she answered "no, I'm sorry." Bazinet says that this is because, "we used to have a team in our county which wore green and gold. I used to hate those

colors, and used to think 'those poor people'. And when I came up here and tried out for the basketball team I realized that I would have to wear green and gold." She quickly added with a laugh that, "I guess it's not that bad."

Bazinet is currently enrolled in the Faculty of Physical Education and is in the coaching route. She hopes to become a Physical Education teacher, and she chose the U of A because she came here for the "school part" of it. After attending the Panda games as a spectator in her first year she decided to tryout for the team, and the rest has been history.

In addition to playing competitive sports for most of her life, Bazinet has been coaching for the past number of years. "I used to want to coach university level, but I've been thinking that I want to work my way up and gain the experience before the pressure." Henger sees Bazinet with a career in coaching, but because it will be an educational process.

Panda coach Diane Hilko also  
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Ron Sears

## This guy's the wrestling coach?

by Ajay Bhardwaj

Mike Payette doesn't look like a wrestler, let alone a coach. The bespectacled 27 year old with a bowl-cut was one of the best 125 pound wrestlers in the world.

"There have been a number of jokes made about him," said Vang Ioannides. "A lot of people think he's a kid." Ioannides was joking, of course, but Payette does look a shade under sixteen.

"Anyone who's wrestled him respects him," Ioannides said. "Everytime he starts to wrestle, he hurts somebody. It's never on purpose, though. He cracked my ankle and last year he put Ron Morie out

for a week before Canada West."

Payette got into wrestling when he lived in Ottawa. As a 72 pounder, he went out for the football and the hockey team but didn't make it because he was too small. "In phys. ed. class we took wrestling and I finally got a chance to wrestle someone my own size." At 17, Payette won his age category in the national championships and at 18 he finished second in the world in the Junior Elite division. At 18 he was the national under-20 age division champ.

But when his sparring partner quit, Payette decided to come to the University of Alberta. "I'd heard John Barry had a good program, so

I came here," Payette said. Under Barry's tutelage, Payette won three CIAU championships (two at 125 pounds and one at 119 pounds). Payette also captured the Wilson Trophy as the most outstanding male athlete in 1985.

Payette quit wrestling in 1986. "I decided to quit as national champion," Payette said. But he also became the head coach of the Bear wrestling team, replacing Mark Yurick. "I probably needed a couple of years as assistant coach, after being an athlete," Payette said. "I was still one of the boys and there has to be a separation," he said. "I'd like to have been introduced more slowly."

"He has improved as a coach," Ioannides said. He's improved enough to be named Canada West/Great Plains Athletic Conference coach of the year.

Payette considers wrestling to be a sport which can help to enhance a person's confidence. "If you can deal with being on a mat in front of a lot of people, you can build character."

That's why he feels that a reduction of sports at the CIAU level (to just the big ones) is a "travesty. You wrestle for intrinsic reasons, not extrinsic reasons. You don't wrestle for money or for recognition. You want to offer as many elite experiences as you can."